

*Virginia Sea Grant*  
**Symposium**  
**2024**

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ALL DIRECTIONS

**Program Guide and Schedule**



**October 10 – 11, 2024**  
**Virginia Beach, Virginia**

Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront





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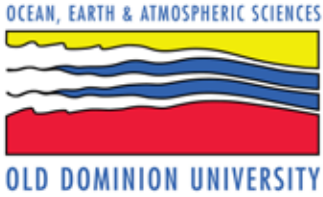
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## Conference Center & Hotel Map

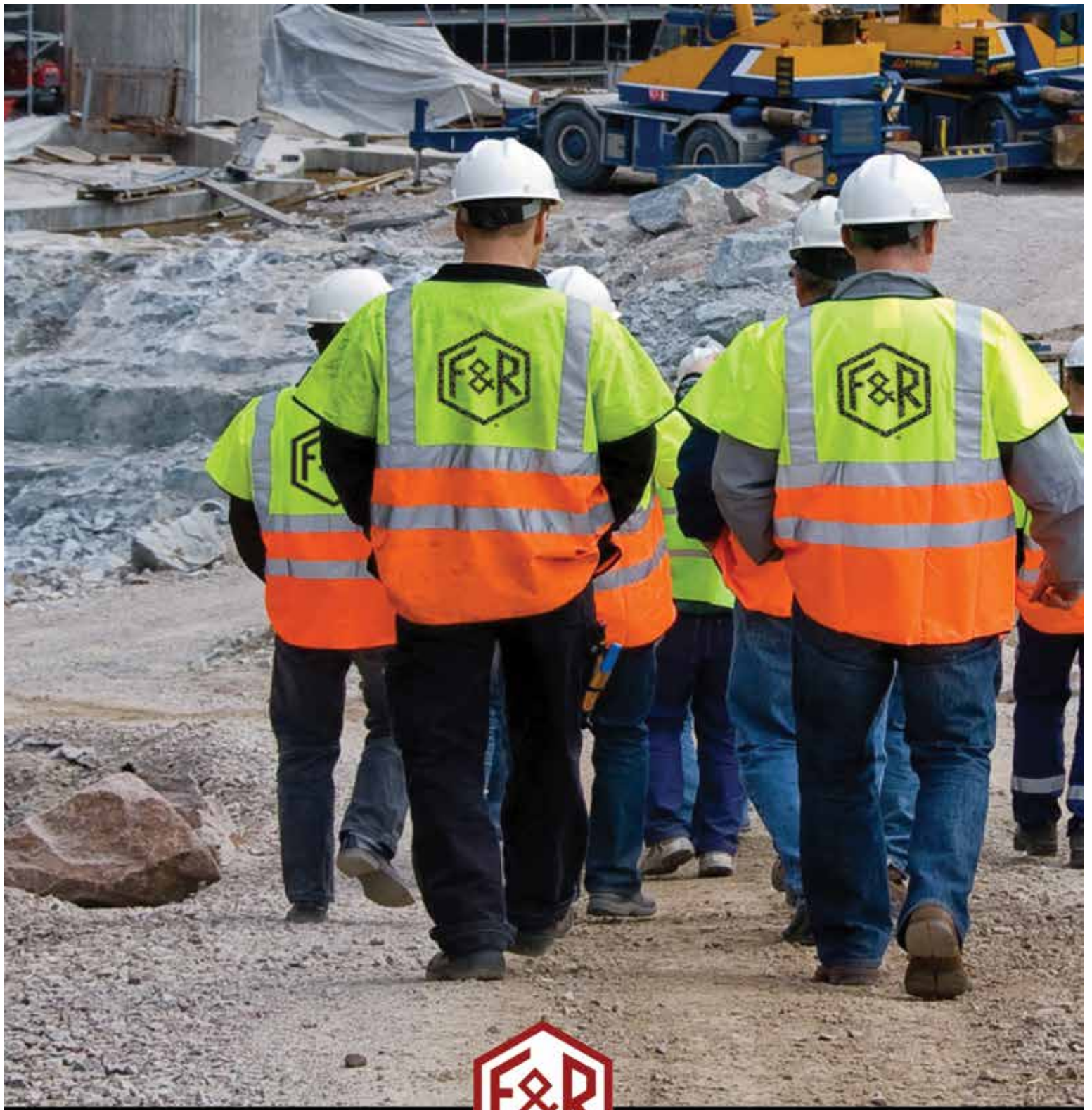


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# Conference Schedule

## Thursday, October 10

<b>8:00 AM</b>	VENDOR SETUP	ATLANTIC BALLROOM
<b>8:30 AM</b>	REGISTRATION	ATLANTIC FOYER
<b>9:30 AM</b>	WELCOME & KEYNOTE SPEAKER	ATLANTIC BALLROOM
<b>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	2024 VISIONS: TED-INSPIRED TALKS	ATLANTIC BALLROOM
<b>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</b>	LUNCH	ATLANTIC FOYER & BALLROOM
<b>1:30 PM – 1:40 PM</b>	TRANSITION TO SESSIONS	
<b>1:40 PM – 2:40 PM</b>	CONCURRENT SESSION #1	SEE PAGE 14 FOR LOCATIONS
<b>2:40 PM – 2:50 PM</b>	10-MINUTE BREAK	
<b>2:50 PM – 3:50 PM</b>	CONCURRENT SESSION #2	SEE PAGE 14 FOR LOCATIONS
<b>3:50 PM – 4:00 PM</b>	10-MINUTE BREAK	
<b>4:00 PM – 4:45 PM</b>	CONCURRENT SESSION #3	SEE PAGE 14 FOR LOCATIONS
<b>4:45 PM – 5:30 PM</b>	EVENING BREAK	
<b>5:30 PM – 6:30 PM</b>	WELCOME RECEPTION	ATLANTIC FOYER & BALLROOM
<b>6:30 PM</b>	BUFFET-STYLE DINNER	ATLANTIC FOYER & BALLROOM

## Friday, October 11

<b>7:30 AM – 9:00 AM</b>	BREAKFAST	ATLANTIC FOYER & BALLROOM
<b>8:00 AM</b>	REGISTRATION, SPONSOR TABLES OPEN & POSTER SETUP	ATLANTIC FOYER
<b>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	PLENARY SPEAKER	ATLANTIC BALLROOM
<b>10:00 AM – 10:15 AM</b>	15-MINUTE BREAK	
<b>10:15 AM – 11:15 AM</b>	2024 VISIONS: TED-INSPIRED TALKS	ATLANTIC BALLROOM
<b>11:15 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	POSTER SESSION	ATLANTIC FOYER
<b>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</b>	LUNCH	ATLANTIC FOYER & BALLROOM
<b>1:30 PM – 1:40 PM</b>	TRANSITION TO SESSIONS	
<b>1:40 PM – 2:40 PM</b>	CONCURRENT SESSIONS #4	SEE PAGE 14 FOR LOCATIONS
<b>2:40 PM – 2:50 PM</b>	10-MINUTE BREAK	
<b>2:50 PM – 3:50 PM</b>	CONCURRENT SESSIONS #5	SEE PAGE 14 FOR LOCATIONS
<b>3:50 PM – 4:00 PM</b>	10-MINUTE BREAK	
<b>4:00 PM</b>	AWARDS AND CLOSING	ATLANTIC BALLROOM





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## Keynote Speaker



### Fabian Schmid

*Speaker, Author, Business Consultant and Coach*

PHOTO BY OLIVIER SCHENK, COURTESY OF FABIAN SCHMID

## A Healthy Mind is Not a Crime...

### Life Happens to the Best of Us!

Changing the world for the better while undergoing open heart surgery sounds like somewhat of a challenge. But hey, that is our zeitgeist and the least to be expected these days. Guess someone has to tackle it, so why not me? As we all know: What doesn't kill me, makes me strong. Or might all of that be a misunderstanding? Should we possibly start to do open mind surgery instead and question the unquestionable? Science claims that in principle that approach could work. Let's connect and create that better world together. Since failure is the seed for innovation, we have nothing to fear, right?

This keynote will touch topics like change, fear, innovation, mental health, perception, accountability and the human limitation behind eternity. I promise you will not learn anything you don't already know. But maybe you will look at things differently afterwards.

**Caution:** An open mind is not an empty waste bin.

Basel, Switzerland-based author and speaker **Fabian Schmid** teaches graduate students 'survival skills for creative people' and consults with companies on business strategy, change management and stress prevention. He coaches clients back into their 'lightness of being' and speaks publicly about personal attitude, contradiction, responsibility, courage, possibility and the impact they have on life and work. In doing so, he taps deeply into his track record as an internationally acclaimed entrepreneur, designer, stage performer and proven long-term human being with first-hand burnout experience.

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# Plenary Speaker



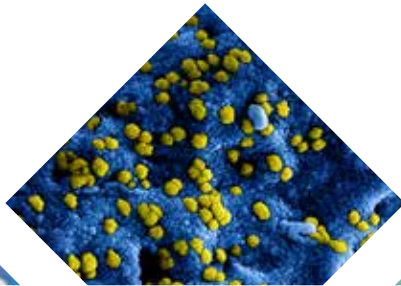
## Brain-Smashing: NOT Zombie Style

Integrating Knowledge Across  
Diverse Perspectives

Integrating knowledge across diverse perspectives – disciplinary, stakeholder, sector, and other ways of thinking – is difficult and can be unnerving, although when achieved the results are novel ideas, outcomes and solutions to society's most wicked problems. Employing NSF-funded and tested knowledge integration tactics, we will practice brain-smashing, in a safe, exploratory space with no zombies.

**Troy Hartley, PhD**

*Director*  
Virginia Sea Grant



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# 2024 Visions: Ted-Like Talks

**Thursday, October 10**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ATLANTIC BALLROOM**



**Mikayla Call**

*Embracing Social Science as a Wildlife Ecologist*



**Jem Baldissimo**

*Decoding Ear Bones & Fish Scales for Ageing Menhaden*



**Jenn Engelke**

*Community Engagement's Impact on Forming Place Attachment within a Holistic System: Hunter's Point South Waterfront (NYC)*



**Ryan McIntyre**

*Nipping it in the Bud: The Effort to Stop an Invasive Plant*

**Friday, October 11**

**10:15 AM – 11:15 AM ATLANTIC BALLROOM**



**AnnJacob Woodson**

**Madeline Pitsenbarger**

*MA's Making Waves: Opportunities, Career Paths, and Experiences from the VIMS Professional Master of Arts (MA) Students*



**Kayla Cahoon**

*How Lasagna, Corn Fields, and Beaches Intersected to Help the Virginia Eastern Shore Community*



**Mashid Ahmadian**

*Fish Movement Imputations: How Data Science and Ecology Unite to Preserve Marine Ecosystems*



**Kaitlyn Theberge**

*Minority Serving Institution Aquaculture Needs Assessment*



**Taylor Dolan**

*Breeding Oysters in a Changing Environment: Fine-Tuning Breeding Strategies for Dermo and MSX Resistance to Create Optimized Broodstock*



# TRAINING TOMORROW'S LEADERS IN CONSERVATION



Recognized widely as one of the premier programs in North America addressing fish and wildlife issues of state, national and global concern, we in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation are passionate about natural resource conservation and management and about making a difference in how our society values sustainable natural resources. Through our commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and engagement we are training the next generation of leaders in natural resource conservation and management and influencing decisions and policy in Virginia, the nation, and the world.



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# Poster Presentations

1. *Consequences of climate-driven ecosystem change on the availability of nesting habitat for an imperiled shorebird species in Virginia*, Mikayla Call, Virginia Tech, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
2. *Comparison of Chemical and Manual Treatments on Two-horned Water Chestnut (*Trapa bispinosa* var. *iinumai*) – Year 1*, Ryan McIntyre, George Mason University
3. *Investigating Variability in Nutrient and Enterococcus Concentrations in Tidal Floodwater*, Alyssa Bucci, Old Dominion University
4. *MA's Making Waves: Opportunities, Career Paths, and Experiences from the VIMS professional Master of Arts (MA) Students*, AnnJacob (AJ) Woodson & Madeline Pitsenbarger, Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science
5. *Reconstructing Bottom Water Temperature Distributions on the Mid-Atlantic Continental Shelf*, Natalie Sprague, Old Dominion University, Physical Oceanography
6. *Understanding the Socio-Economic Implications of Summer Flounder Distribution Changes on Recreational Fisheries*, Mary Adebote, Willandia Chaves, Emmanuel Frimpong, Holly Kindsvater, Virginia Tech
7. *Eastern Red Cedar VS. Salt*, Caroline Dillard, Christopher Newport University, Environmental Science
8. *Tidal Inundation Variation Influence on Oyster Castle Development Along 10-Year Living Shoreline Chronosequence*, Kaitlyn Pounders, Sierra S. Hildebrandt, Taylor M. Sloey, Department of Biological Sciences, Old Dominion University
9. *Water Quality and Identification of Aquatic Microorganisms*, Wilbert Doswell & Joseph D'Silva, Norfolk State University, Department of Biology
10. *Chemical Properties of the Elizabeth River (E.R.) and Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG) and *Bosmina coregoni* (Phylum Crustacea)*, Zavion Dawson, student at Norfolk State University (*Unable to attend*)
11. *Nature-based climate resilience through shoreline transformation*, Andre de Souza de Lima, Daniel Cardona; Tyler Miesse, Celso Ferreira; Ali Shahabi, Navid Tahvildari, George Mason University, Department of Civil, Environmental and Infrastructure Engineering
12. *Estimating Catch and Release Mortality of Striped Bass*, Rachel Kelmartin, George Mason University
13. *In My Own Backyard: The Value of Collaboration Between Large Research Institutions and Local Community Colleges*, Luke Groff, University of Virginia, Department of Environmental Studies
14. *A Study of Barrier Island Breaching with Morphologic Parameters*, Megan A. Beever, Virginia Tech, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
15. *Turbulent tides: Exploring climate's influence on *C. virginica* geographic range in coastal ecosystems*, Mariana Castaneda-Guzman, Virginia Tech, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
16. *Utilizing a self-organizing mapping approach to identify environmental correlates of sex in summer flounder, *Paralichthys dentatus**, Hailey Conrad, Virginia Tech, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation; Dr. Craig Ramseyer, Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech Department of Geography; Dr. Holly Kindsvater, Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
17. *How Age/Size Impacts Cancer Rates in Fish Exposed to Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons*, Andrea West, Norfolk State University
18. *Local wetlands restoration*, Monet McCann, Norfolk State University
19. *Breeding oysters in a changing environment: fine-tuning breeding strategies for Dermo and MSX resistance to create optimized broodstock*, Taylor Dolan, Virginia Institute of Marine Science Aquaculture Genetics and Breeding Technology Center
20. *Landcover Classification Transition in the Virginia Barrier Islands from 2004 to 2021*, Lucy Gehman, Virginia Tech, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
21. *Salt Marsh Ecosystems Fight Back Against Climate Change*, Grace Bannister & Zlatka Rebolledo-Sanchez, Old Dominion University, Dept. of Biological Sciences
22. *Empowering Future Stewards: A Student-Driven Approach Integrating STEM Education, IoT Technologies, Citizen Science for Enhanced Flood Management in Coastal Virginia*, Savannah Lynn, University of Virginia; Dr. Jonathan Goodall, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Virginia and Director of the UVA Engineering Link Lab; Dr. Venicia Ferrell, Research Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University Center for Educational Partnerships
23. *Investigating the Complex Microbial Communities Associated with Nitrogen Fixing Cyanobacterial Mats on the Susquehanna Flats of the Chesapeake Bay*, Shayna Keller, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES); Co-authors Dr. Judith O'Neil & Dr. Jacob Cram, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)
24. *Comparing ecological function of aging artificial vs natural oyster reefs in an urban Florida estuary*, Emily Surmont, University of Florida, Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves
25. *Why Snow Algal Reproduction Matters*, Alexander "Xander" Geragotelis, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Algal Evolutionary Ecology (AlgEE) Lab
26. *Using Edutainment as a Communication Strategy to Boost Youth Interest in Agriculture*, Yaw Asamoah Akowuah & Mary Olumide-Oyaniyi, Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education, Virginia Tech





Virginia Climate Center

*Our Vision: A Resilient, Healthy, Sustainable Virginia*

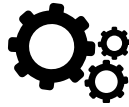
The Virginia Climate Center partners with communities to co-produce locally relevant climate research and enhance Virginia's resilience to the impacts of climate change and variability.



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# Concurrent Sessions

## Thursday, October 10

### Concurrent Sessions 1

1:40 PM – 2:40 PM

Cape A	Cape B	Cape C	Mariner A	Mariner B
FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCES	URBAN & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING	SCIENCE COMMUNICATION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
<b>CHEF and PEECH Fellow Panel Discussion</b>	<b>Six Principles of Equitable Collaboration</b>	<b>From Ingredients to a Meal: Preparing Science for Consumption</b>	<b>Broader Impact Identity Process</b>	<b>Difficult Conversations in 360</b>

### Concurrent Sessions 2

2:50 PM – 3:50 PM

Cape A	Cape B	Cape C	Mariner A	Mariner B
SCIENCE COMMUNICATION	COASTAL RESILIENCE	SCIENCE POLICY	SCIENCE COMMUNICATION	NETWORKING
<b>Science Communication Through Social Media</b>	<b>Plant Production in Virginia's Coastal Resilience Economy</b>	<b>Virginia's Programs Training Scientists &amp; Engineers to Engage in Policy: Aims, Audiences, &amp; Activities</b>	<b>Research Origin Storytelling</b>	<b>Networking Tables - Open to All Attendees</b>

### Concurrent Sessions 3

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

Cape A	Cape B	Cape C	Mariner A	Mariner B
FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCES	SCIENCE COMMUNICATION	INTERDISCIPLINARY & COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH	SCIENCE COMMUNICATION	ECOLOGICAL ENGINEERING & WATER QUALITY
<b>Flight of Fellows</b>	<b>Storytelling with ArcGIS Story Maps</b>	<b>The Eastern Shore of Virginia Climate Equity Project: Addressing Climate Inequities Through Interdisciplinary and Community-Based Research</b>	<b>Data Storytelling</b>	<b>PFAS in stormwater systems within socioeconomically disadvantaged communities in coastal VA – their prevalence and mitigation opportunities</b>

For information about speakers and panelists, please visit the symposium website:

**[SYMPOSIUM.VASEAGRANT.ORG/AGENDA/WORKSHOPS-PANELS](https://SYMPOSIUM.VASEAGRANT.ORG/AGENDA/WORKSHOPS-PANELS)**





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# Concurrent Sessions

## Friday, October 11

### Concurrent Sessions 4

1:40 PM – 2:40 PM

Cape A	Cape B	Cape C	Mariner A	Mariner B
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	MENTORSHIP	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH
The Value of Community Engagement When Dealing With Sea Level Rise and Other Environmental Issues	Enhancing Emotional Intelligence for Effective Professional Relationships	Facilitating Academic Excellence: Mentorship and the Power of Connections	Inspiring real community engagement with faith based organizations to be a part of the inflation reduction act and justice 40 initiative	Making Science Accessible: An Interactive Approach Using Spatial Variability in Salt Marshes

### Concurrent Sessions 5

2:50 PM – 3:50 PM

Cape A	Cape B	Cape C	Mariner A	Mariner B
INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION	SCIENCE COMMUNICATION	INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	NETWORKING
Nepal Water Initiative Panel	Communicating Science and Cultivating Connections	A Disciplined Approach to Resilience	Climate, Weather, and Health Implications Utilizing AI Technology	Networking Tables - Open to All Attendees

For information about speakers and panelists, please visit the symposium website:  
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# RETHINKING RESILIENCE



The 2024 Research Fellows, Kayleigh Macumber and Katherine Shi, pictured between Hanbury IPAL student, Nelanie Anderson and Ashley Montgomery.

**A**t Hanbury, we believe in the transformative power of design—not just to create spaces, but to reshape experiences, center community, and establish best practices. We embrace our responsibility to adapt to and prepare for the changes brought about by climate change, aiming to enhance our capacity to respond to these changes through informed, transdisciplinary research.

This commitment inspired our collaboration with Virginia Sea Grant (VASG) to launch the **Hanbury-VASG Research Fellowship**. Our shared goal? To develop innovative solutions that address the palpable impacts of climate change affecting communities across Virginia.

This year, the fellowship revisits the foundational work of VASG by partnering with an oyster hatchery on Gwynn's Island. The project aims to redefine the infrastructure of rural coastal communities, which are often the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. By reimagining these spaces, the fellowship seeks to create sustainable, resilient environments that bolster both the community and the local economy.

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